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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith subparagraph (a) of the paragraph concerning the issue of the Iranian occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates contained in the final communiqué of the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Abu Dhabi from 7 to 9 December 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39, 40, 64, 71, 74, 91, 93, 149 and 155, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Excerpt from the final communiqué of the nineteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Abu Dhabi from 7 to 9 December 1998

(a) The issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates:

The Supreme Council reviewed developments in the matter of the Iranian occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran was persisting in making unacceptable claims with regard to the three islands and continuing to take measures designed to consolidate its occupation. The Supreme Council once again reaffirmed the need for the Iranian Government to respond to the repeated earnest and sincere invitations from the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf Cooperation Council States, the Damascus Declaration States, the League of Arab States and other regional and international organizations, institutions and groupings, to arrive at a peaceful solution of this conflict, thereby allowing the positive policies of the Government of President Mohammad Khatami to gain the credibility necessary for the establishment of mutual confidence, the development of cooperation and the upholding of security and stability in the region.

The Supreme Council reiterated its affirmation that the United Arab Emirates holds sovereignty over the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and its absolute support for all peaceful measures and means that country might adopt in order to restore its sovereignty over those islands. It also reiterated its request to the Iranian Government to terminate its occupation of the three islands, desist from its policy of imposing the status quo by force, refrain from placing Iranian installations on the islands with a view to altering their demographic composition, annul all measures, remove all installations already unilaterally put in place on the islands and use peaceful means, including referral of the issue to the International Court of Justice, in order to resolve the dispute, in accordance with the principles and precepts of international law.